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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

25X1C

SUBJECT Developments in the Dzhambul Oblast: Army Pilot School/
 Flourishing Blackmarket in Textiles, Gold Coins/ Horse-
 Breeding for Soviet Cavalry/ Growing Kazakh-Russian Tension

PLACE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)DATE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

DATE (OF INFO)

RESPONSIVE TO	
1	2
OR NO.	
OO/C NO.	
ORR NO.	
DAS NO.	
OCI NO.	

DATE DISTR. 3 JAN 1953

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

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1. "In the southern part of the town of Dzhambul, (pop. 62,723) southeastern Kazakhstan, within the period May - September 1952, a new school for army pilots and an enlarged military airfield were put into operation. The school has about 300 pupils, of whom only 60 are native Kazakhs. The rest are Russians, mostly sons of administrative officials and Communist party officers in the Dzhambul Oblast.
 2. "Dzhambul, the capital city of the Dzhambul Oblast, has become (September 1952) one of the most important centers of illegal trade and black market activities in Kazakhstan. Various types of textiles are smuggled to Dzhambul from Tashkent by railway employees. These materials are bought in large quantities by Kazakhs employed in administrative posts in kolkhozes and industrial plants or holding local Party posts. Several state-owned hops in Dzhambul are engaged in buying gold and silver coins and other objects from the people. There exists in the town a widespread, although illegal, trade in gold coins. Old Czarists gold coins (5, 10, and 15 rubles) are now fetching enormous prices. During 1948-50, a 5-ruble gold coin cost on the black market 450 to 500 (Soviet) rubles. Now it fetches as much as 750 to 1,000 rubles. These gold coins are bought mainly by high party and administrative officials, both Russians and non-Russians, employed at the local Obkom (Oblast committee) and Ispolkom (Party Oblast Executive Committee), or at the neighboring tobacco farms and sugar beet refineries.
- "Another center of illegal trade, although on a smaller scale, is the railway junction of Chu, a station situated between Dzhambul and Alma Ata. The main articles on this illegal market are textiles, gold and foodstuffs.

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4. "About 20 to 22 kolkhozes in the Dzhambul Oblast are engaged in breeding horses for the Soviet cavalry. Each year several rail transports of such horses are shipped from the Dzhambul railway station to Russia, the first known station en route being Saratov.
5. "Large areas in the Dzhambul oblast are cultivated with wheat and sugar beets. About 80% of this production is shipped to Russia proper.
6. "There exists a constant and still growing tension between the local Kazakh population and the Russians, who are being sent into the country in increasing numbers. Party functionaries and officials who have to proceed to isolated rayons for business purposes never dare go alone. They are always protected by escorts of MVD cavalymen. In July and August 1952 there were numerous cases of mass escapes of kolkhoz workers to the Sinye Gory Mountains in the very sparsely populated region near the Kirghiz S.S.R. Kazakh people simply hate the kolkhozes and their strict discipline. Escapes from kolkhozes are quite numerous. To cope with this situation, one of the chief functionaries in the Dzhambul Oblast, (fnu) Artigalyev (a Kazakh), organized in summer 1952 special 'Komsomol Brigades' to conduct a propaganda drive for work in kolkhozes. In many instances these Komsomol agitators were severely beaten by the native Kazakhs. Russians are generally afraid of Kazakhs, and the only way they express their 'superiority' is to call the Kazakhs 'Mongolskaya Dich' (Mongolian savages'). Even more characteristic than the feeling of fear among individual Russians, is the lenient attitude shown by the Russian authorities towards Kazakh offenders. For such cases, even, as infractions of labor discipline or signs of resistance, the offenders are not treated as political offenders but as ordinary criminals - two completely different categories in the Soviet judicial procedure. Such criminal offenders are usually detained for three to four weeks at the criminal investigation prison in Dzhambul. They are terribly beaten and maltreated but they also eventually are released. Officially they are later referred to as 'huligans' but not as political criminals."

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